Setting up of National Elementary Education Mission

676. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to set up a National Elementary Education Mission (NEEM);

(b) if so, the main objectives of setting up of NEEM;

(c) whether its branches would be set up at the state level too; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION) (DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI): (a) and (b) A National Elementary Education Mission has already been set up to bring to bear upon the Universalisation of Elementary Education a sense of expedition.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal to this effect.

Freight Equalization Policy

677. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) that total amount of subsidy Government has paid out till date on account of the partial dismantling of the policy of freight equalization for steel;

(b) the source of funds for payment of the subsidy; and

(c) whether Government propose to announce in the near future the complete dismantling of the freight equalization scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (c) After deregulation of pricing and distribution of steel, the main producers are charging actual freight upto the stockyard or freight element as existed under the earlier Freight Equalisation Scheme (now Rs. 1510/- per tonne of steel and Rs. 945/- per tonne of pig iron) whichever is lower. In doing so, the freight disadvantage to the States/areas located near the steel plants of the main producers has been removed. At the same time the advantage of lower freight under the Freight Equalisation Scheme to the distant States/areas has been protected. The extra burden on this account is being borne by the main producers themselves; there is no Government subsidy on this account. At present there is no proposal to discontinue this system because it benefits the iron and steel consumers in distant States/areas.

Shortage of milk

678. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister or AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country is heading for a substantial milk shortage during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the efforts made by Government to overcome this shortage; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise

Discontinuance of religious ceremony at Church in Goa

679. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of press report in Goan dailies that ASI has directed Goa Church Authorities to discontinue the religious Ceremony(Mass)